Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

Multi-stakeholder Capacity-building Event

Synthesis of gaps and needs identified for enhanced participation in, and use of the assessments and other outputs of, the Regular Process

Importance of Capacity-building

Overall Objective:

"The Regular Process [will] promote and facilitate the full participation of developing countries in all of its activities."

Capacity-building

"States and global and regional organizations [will] be invited to cooperate with each other to identify gaps and shared priorities as a basis for developing a coherent programme to support capacity-building in marine monitoring and assessment."

2009 Principles:

"(e) Continual improvement in scientific and assessment capacity, including the promotion and development of capacity-building activities and transfer of technology".

Capacity to do what?

Three possibilities:

1. Capacity for marine monitoring and assessment.

2. Capacity to benefit from the marine environment

3. Capacity to manage human activities sustainably

Scale of our current knowledge

The ocean represents around 95% of the volume of the planet that supports life

Humans have explored in detail only a tiny fraction of this volume

Previously unknown species are continuously being identified – especially at the microscopic level

Only a small fraction of the seabed has been mapped in detail

Knowledge Gaps

Four headings:

The physical structure of the ocean

The waters of the ocean

The biota of the ocean

The ways in which humans interact with the ocean.

Physical structure of the ocean

- Knowledge of the seabed has improved markedly over the last 25 – 50 years, but large areas are not known in detail.
- Countries are beginning to examine their Exclusive Economic Zones, but 45% of the ocean is beyond national jurisdiction
- Mineral resources of the ocean floor will be come more important as land-based sources are depleted
- Ocean acidification means that we need to know more about carbonate formation

The waters of the ocean

We need to know more about sea temperature (both at the surface and at depth), sea- level rise, salinity distribution, carbon dioxide absorption, and nutrient distribution and cycling

Ocean acidification varies locally. We need to know more about the effects of these differences

To understand primary production, we need to measure chlorophyll a, dissolved nitrogen and biologically active dissolved phosphorus across the ocean

The biota of the ocean

Fish species and populations

Threatened and endangered species

Critical habitats

Human interactions

Fisheries

Shipping

Land-based inputs and effects on human health

Minerals extraction

Coastal development

Capacity needs - things

Research vessels (including submarine units)

Satellite monitoring

Research floats

Coastal information-gathering

Input monitors

Capacity needs - people

Organizing sampling

Laboratory-analysis skills

Taxonomic skills

Interpretation skills

Policy-development skills

Policy-implementation skills

Integrated assessment

1. Develop the skills needed to bring a wide range of issues together

2. Develop understanding of what an integrated assessment needs

Maintaining a spread

Helping developing countries to develop the sets of skills that they need is a first step

We also need to think about how they can maintain those skill sets in a global economy

What next?

How do we develop “a coherent programme”?

Large numbers of players need to take part

Both international and national action is required

What sort of analysis can underpin such a programme?

Can UN Oceans, the Regular Process and the Informal Consultative Process play roles in this?